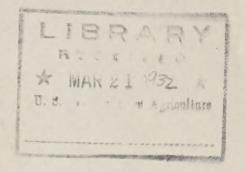
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEATHER BUREAU

C. F. MARVIN, Chief



Forecast Division

Washington, D. C., March 1, 1932

BROADCASTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF AVIATION AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS ON THE PACIFIC COAST

(Effective March 15, 1932)

The U. S. Weather Bureau, through the Naval Radio Station NPG, at San Francisco, Calif., broadcasts early reports of weather observations taken at about 130 stations in the United States, Canada, and Alaska; also, ship reports from vessels in the north Pacific Ocean and pilot-balloon, upper-air reports from selected stations in the far Western States. The observations taken at land, vessel, and aerological stations are in the Weather Bureau codes applying to these types of stations, and are easily decoded.

BROADCASTING SCHEDULES

At 5:30 a. m. (120th meridian time).—Daily, including Sundays and holidays. Average time, about 70 minutes.

At 5:30 p. m. (120th meridian time).—Daily, including Sundays and holidays. Average time, between 55 and 60 minutes.

Both a. m. and p. m. broadcasts are made on simultaneous frequencies of 4,385, 108, and 42.8 kilocycles (68.4, 2,776, and 7,000 meters, respectively).

OBSERVATIONAL DATA AND CODES

1. Land stations.—Observations at continental stations, except Alaska, are taken at 5 a. m. and 5 p. m. (120th meridian time); at Alaskan stations at 4 a. m. and 4 p. m. (120th meridian time); and at Honolulu at 8 a. m. and 8 p. m. (Honolulu local time). Honolulu observations are always preceded by an appropriate date word. All observations, except Honolulu, are of current date.

The coded data for land stations are arranged in a group of words for each station, as follows:

- (a) Sea-level barometric pressure.
 Current temperature.
- (b) Wind direction.
 State of weather.
 Wind velocity.
- (c) Pressure change characteristic.

Amount of pressure change.

Temperature (minimum in the a. m. broadcast and maximum in the p. m. broadcast).

Another word (K) follows when amount of change exceeds .09 inch.

- (d) Relative humidity (5 a. m.).
 - Maximum temperature of preceding 24 hours ending at 5 a. m. (This word is sent only in the a. m. broadcast.)
- (e) Time of precipitation.

 Character of precipitation.

 Amount of precipitation.
- (f) Frost (light or heavy).
- (g) Thunderstorms.

- (h) Clouds (kind, amount, and direction).
- (i) Maximum wind velocity and direction.
- 2. A selected list of vessel weather observations taken on the current date in the north Pacific Ocean will follow the land-station observations. These reports are in the Universal Groups of the International Code (four groups of five figures each), and consist of the day of the week, quarter of the globe, position of the vessel (latitude and longitude), time of observation (G.C.T.), wind direction and force, state of weather, sea-level barometric pressure, visibility, and current temperature.

Occasionally the Weather Bureau Office at San Francisco may request Supplemental Groups of the International Code from certain ships, which will, on such occasions, be included in the broadcasts.

A description of the International Code used in ship reports broadcast will be found in "International Code for Radio Weather Reports from Ships, W. B. No. 1046".

3. Next will follow wind-aloft reports of current date made at a selected list of far-western Weather Bureau Stations. These reports are based on readings which give the wind velocity and direction at the surface and the following heights above sea level: 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 4,000, 5,000, 6,000, 7,000, 8,000, 10,000, 12,000, and 14,000 feet, and for the maximum altitude observed. The observations are coded in the following order: Station designation, elevation above sea level (nearest 100 feet), the abbreviation "SFC" (surface), wind direction and velocity at surface, and for such of the above heights as are above the level of the station sending the report. The first number of each group following the surface wind direction and velocity indicates the altitude in thousands of feet; the remainder of each group indicates the wind direction and velocity. Wind direction is given to 16 points of the compass; wind velocity is given in miles an hour.

NOTES

Code books for translating two of the foregoing broadcasts (1 and 2) are necessary. Information regarding the procuring of these two separate codes may be obtained by addressing the Weather Bureau Offices at either San Francisco, Calif., or Washington, D. C.

No forecasts of any kind are included in these broadcasts. Forecasts of offshore weather along the Pacific coast, together with a summary of weather conditions over the Pacific Ocean and coastal areas, are broadcast from the same radio station (NPG) in the daily Major Marine Bulletin, which is described in Weather Bureau Radio Circular No. 10 (Fifth Edition—Revised).

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